

Message Text

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10

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 NEA-10 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00

INRE-00 FEA-02 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20

SAM-01 DRC-01 /112 W

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FM AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7807

INFO AMEMBASSY BELGRADE

USMISSION BERLIN

AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY PRAGUE

AMEMBASSY SOFIA

AMEMBASSY WARSAW

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

USINT CAIRO

C O N F I D E N T I A L BUCHAREST 0736

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1

TAGS: PFOR RO XF

SUBJECT: CEAUSESCU'S MIDDLE EAST TRIP CONCLUDED:

GENERAL SUCCESS, SOME FAILURE

1. CEAUSESCU'S TRIP TO IRAQ ENDED WITH EXTREMELY SHORT COMMUNIQUE, GIVING IMPRESSION OF ALMOST COMPLETE FAILURE THERE AFTER RELATIVELY SUCCESSFUL VISITS TO LIBYA, LEBANON AND SYRIA. THIS IMPRESSION WAS ALSO STATED TO CHARGE LAST NIGHT BY EGYPTIAN AMBASSADOR ASSAL WHO SAID CEAUSESCU HIT STONE WALL IN IRAQ. ASSAL DESCRIBED IRAQ AS MOST RADICAL COUNTRY ON BOTH MIDDLE EAST PROBLEM AND ON RELATIONS WITH ROMANIA. HE WAS SURE ROMANIANS HAD BEEN DENIED OIL BY
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IRAQ DESPITE FACT THAT PETROLEUM AND MINING MINISTER BUJOR

ALMASAN HAD GONE AHEAD TO PAVE THE WAY. ASSAL SAID HE COULD NOT UNDERSTAND WHY CEAUSESCU EVEN WENT TO IRAQ AS ITS ATTITUDE WAS CLEAR EARLIER; MACOVESCU HAD TOLD ASSAL DAY BEFORE DEPARTURE THAT TRIP LIMITED TO LIBYA, LEBANON AND SYRIA WHICH INDICATED THAT IRAQI AGREEMENT TO RECEIVE CEAUSESCU ARRIVED AFTER THAT AND IMMEDIATELY PRIOR TO ANNOUNCEMENT THAT IRAQ WAS INCLUDED ON EVE OF CEAUSESCU'S DEPARTURE.

2. ASSAL EXPRESSED VIEW THAT CEAUSESCU HAD DONE WELL IN OTHER THREE COUNTRIES AND THAT SYRIAN POSITION WAS LOOSENING UP. LATER, A MIDDLE LEVEL ROMANIAN OFFICIAL (MFA DEPUTY DIRECTOR ILIESCU) WHO WAS WITH CEAUSESCU IN LEBANON AND SYRIA TOLD CHARGE THAT, WHILE SYRIANS SEEMED TO BE LOOKING FOR WAY TO REACH DISENGAGEMENT, THEY WERE THWARTED BY THEIR OWN INITIAL INTRANSIGENCE AND NEEDED TO "FIND WAY" TO SHIFT THEIR POSITION.

3. SCINTEIA OF FEBRUARY 23 REPORTS EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING CALLED TO HEAR CEAUSESCU REPORT ON HIS TRIP AND UNANIMOUSLY ADOPTED "DECISION" APPLAUDING CEAUSESCU'S WORK. ANOTHER WHOLE PAGE DEVOTED TO PROVINCIAL MESSAGES OF APPROVAL. WHILE NO EDITORIAL HAS APPEARED YET, SCINTEIA FOREIGN POLICY EDITOR CAPLESCU CANCELLED OUT OF DINNER LAST NIGHT ON BASIS OF SUDDEN ORDERS TO PRODUCE MAJOR EDITORIAL ON THE TRIP WHICH WILL PRESUMABLY APPEAR ON SUNDAY.

4. LUMEA EDITOR VOLUNTEERED FEB 22 THAT CEAUSESCU HAD PROBABLY CONVEYED HUSSEIN'S VIEWS ON PALESTINIAN PROBLEM TO ARAFAT IN BEIRUT, SINCE GOR FELT THIS WAS ONE AREA WHERE IT MIGHT BE HELPFUL WITH "GOOD OFFICES". EDITOR DEFINED CEAUSESCU'S "GOOD OFFICES" ROLE IN ME AS LISTENING TO AND CONVEYING WHEN DESIRED THE VARIOUS POINTS OF VIEW WHILE CONSTRUCTIVELY EXPRESSING GOR POSITIONS AND SUGGESTIONS BUT CAREFULLY LEAVING "MEDIATION" TO OTHERS SUCH AS DR. KISSINGER.
MARTENS

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PRESS COMMENTS, DIPLOMATIC DISCUSSIONS, HEAD OF GOVERNMENT VISITS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 23 FEB 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: garlanwa
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974BUCHAR00736
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: X1
Errors: N/A
Film Number: n/a
From: BUCHAREST
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19740213/aaaaamjo.tel
Line Count: 98
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: garlanwa
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 07 MAY 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <07 MAY 2002 by ifshinsr>; APPROVED <11 JUN 2002 by garlanwa>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: CEAUSESCU'S MIDDLE EAST TRIP CONCLUDED: GENERAL SUCCESS, SOME FAILURE
TAGS: PFOR, RO, XF, (CEAUSESCU, NICOLAE)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005